

The Dipnetter

News of the River from the
Columbia River Inter-Tribal
Fish Commission



September 2014

SALMON CAMP 2014

TANA ATCHLEY, CRITFC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Twenty Yakama, Umatilla, Nez Perce, and Warm Springs middle school students participated in the 2014 CRITFC Salmon Camp July 28–August 1. This year's camp was held in partnership with the Yakama Nation in the closed area of the Yakama Reservation at Camp Chaparral.

The campers learned science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills through engagement in culturally

relevant, hands-on activities that combined Western science with traditional ecological knowledge. Tribal fisheries experts and leaders lead salmon-related field tasks and campers applied the results to real concerns faced by their communities. The campers also heard from guests and staff about their professions and explored educational and career pathways in the STEM subjects. 🐟

◀ *Yakama elder Wilbur Slockish shares stories with Salmon Campers.*

▼ *Joshua Hall and Zack Lamebull from Yakama Fisheries lead a macro invertebrate activity to determine water quality.*



FISHERY UPDATE

STUART ELLIS, CRITFC HARVEST MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST

The fall season fisheries officially began on August 1. Sales of platform fish had continued from the summer season, but there number of fish around during the first part of August was small, so catches were light. The first fall commercial gillnet fishery opened on August 18. The counts at Bonneville have already begun to pick up and everybody is wondering if the prediction of a record fall chinook return will be accurate. Even if it doesn't quite turn out to be a record run, it ought to be a very big one.

The fall fisheries, just like spring and summer, are managed according to harvest rate schedules that were agreed to by all the *U.S. v. Oregon* parties in the 2008-2017 Management Agreement. This means both treaty and non-treaty fisheries are managed on the same river mouth Upriver Bright run size. Both fisheries are adjusted during the season as actual run size data is received. B steelhead

will likely be a complicating factor in the fall fishery this year because this run is likely going to be pretty average. The tribes will be working on ways to maximize the chinook catch while making sure the B steelhead impacts stay within the harvest rate limit in the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement. The tribes did set five weeks of commercial gillnet fishing right at the start of the season with an above average amount of fishing time each week. This should help fishers catch a lot of chinook before many B steelhead have reached Zone 6. If the chinook run does come in as big as predicted, there will be a lot of fish to catch.

As part of CRITFC's services to fishers, we have a list you can sign up for to receive weather and wind email updates for the Zone 6 fishing area. For information about this email list contact Kyle Ditmer at ditk@critfc.org. These updates come out at least a couple times per week. 🐟

THE ZONE 6 FISHERY

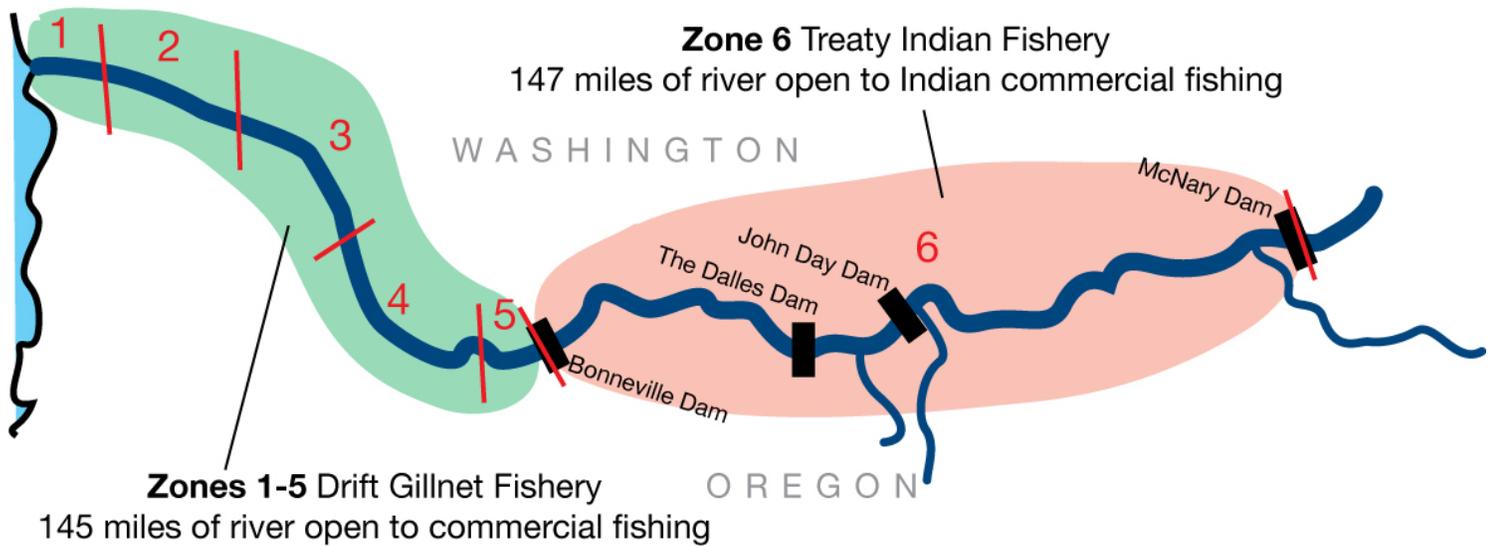
LES BROWN, CRITFC SALMON MARKETING SPECIALIST

All four Columbia River treaty tribes enjoy fishing rights along the Columbia from the Bonneville to McNary dams. This 147-mile stretch of the river is called Zone 6. For fisheries management purposes, the 292-mile stretch of the Columbia River that creates the border between Washington and Oregon is divided into six zones. Zones 1-5 are between the mouth of the river and Bonneville Dam, a distance of 145 miles. Oregon and Washington manage the commercial fisheries that occur in these zones. Zone 6 is an exclusive treaty Indian commercial fishing area. This exclusion is for commercial fishing only. Non-commercial sports fishers may still fish in this stretch of the river.

Indian fishers are generally entitled to half the harvestable surplus of fish in the river. To meet the treaty share requirement, Oregon and Washington must set their fisheries in Zones 1-5 in order to leave enough fish for harvest in Zone 6. Indian fishing is regulated by the tribes consistent with the ongoing U.S. District Court litigation known as *U.S. v. Oregon*.

The CRITFC Enforcement operations consist of land and water patrols on this stretch of the Columbia River to enforce tribal regulations. CRITFC also operates and maintains 31 fishing access sites set aside for the exclusive use of fishers from the four member tribes. 🐟

▼ The six Columbia River commercial fishing zones between Oregon and Washington.



CRITFC Officers and Commissioners

WARM SPRINGS



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 Scott Moses · Brigitte McConville
 Jonathan Smith · Ryan Smith
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DID MY TRIBE GIVE UP ANY SOVEREIGNTY?

We occasionally hear the misperception that tribes gave away some of their treaty rights by joining CRITFC. Joining CRITFC in no way negatively affected the treaty rights of the four member tribes. Each tribe is sovereign, stands on its own, and retains all of its treaty rights and management authorities. The Nez Perce, Umatilla, Yakama, and Warm Springs tribes chose to work together to manage fisheries for many reasons. Their 1855 treaties have very similar fishing rights language and they face similar challenges, especially from the states. CRITFC provides a place for the member tribes to discuss matters of mutual interest. These matters including coordinating their fishery regulations and seasons. CRITFC itself does not have the power or

authority to set any tribal member's treaty-reserved rights. Only the tribes have the authority to set the regulations and seasons for their own members.

No tribe is required to check its sovereignty at the door when meeting at CRITFC. The four tribes established the Commission in a manner that respects each tribe's individual sovereignty. CRITFC operates on a consensus model (4-0 vote) not a majority model (3-1 vote). This means CRITFC can act if and only if all four tribes agree. Each of CRITFC's member tribes receives one tribal vote. A tribe with many more commissioners still only has one vote. In the event of no consensus, each tribe always has the right to act under its own authority. 🐟

HONORING THE TRADITION OF OVER-THE-BANK SALES

LES BROWN, CRITFC SALMON MARKETING SPECIALIST

These suggestions based on the FDA's Food Code will add value to your product and promote repeat customers.

1. Wear clean clothing and have a clean vehicle and coolers. If selling from a tailgate, be sure it is sanitized; a covered canopy is desirable and in some public markets, required.
2. Don't smoke or eat around the fish or in front of customers.
3. Sellers should not be sick or have open wounds.
4. Wear disposable gloves when handling fish and change gloves after doing things like handling money or equipment.
5. Leave your dog at home.
6. Display fish in a thick bed of fresh ice or in fresh, clean slush and keep under some type of cover. Dressed fish should be kept belly down when displayed on ice. Keep a thermometer in the ice. Monitor and record temperature.
7. Know the different types of fish for sale, when they were caught, and where and how they were caught. Be able to explain how the fish are handled and what is done to keep them fresh.
8. Sell fresh fish either whole or cleaned with the head on. If you sell fillets, steaks, or smoked products, they should be vacuum-packed at a HACCP-approved facility and labeled to include contents, date of pack, and temperature holding requirements, i.e. keep refrigerated at 38°F or below.
9. When weighing fish, use scales approved for trade by the state you are in.
10. Respect other fishers' selling spaces. We are all in this together.
11. Know if your selling location requires a business license and/or a health permit and have them if required.

Other tips are available in the CRITFC Salmon Marketing booklet "Tribal Fisher's Handbook." This free publication is available to tribal fishers to help improve the quality and safety of tribally harvested salmon through sanitation and proper handling.

If you would like one, send a note to:

Les Brown
CRITFC Salmon Marketing
700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 1200
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 238-0667





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Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
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Text "critfc" to the number 555-888 to start getting fishery announcements on your cell phone. It's free!



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Yakama • Warm Springs
Umatilla • Nez Perce 

Message from the Chairman

PROTECTING THE RIVER, PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS

CARLOS SMITH, CRITFC CHAIRMAN

It was a good day for the Columbia River last month when the Oregon Department of State Lands rejected a permit application to build a coal terminal on the Columbia River near Boardman. The decision was made partly on evidence of federally protected treaty fishing activities that occur in that stretch of the river and the negative impact the proposed project would have on those activities.

This landmark decision reflects what is in the best interest of the region, not a company's pocketbook. I am so glad that the State of Oregon refused to trade the rights of the Columbia's native people and risk the health and safety of so many Oregon citizens just to help line the pockets of a foreign energy company. This decision is one that we can all celebrate. It reaffirms the tribal treaty right to fish and is in the best interest of the Columbia Basin's salmon populations and our communities. It is a reflection of what is best for those who would be forced to live with the consequences of Ambre's proposal, not what is best for



those who would profit from it. This is the beginning of the end for this toxic threat – the tribes will stand with the State to protect its sound decision. 

A tribal fishing net along the shore near the site of the proposed coal terminal.

